

Communicable Diseases Update: Influenza Vaccine Update: Four manufacturers are expected to provide influenza vaccine in the U.S. for the upcoming season. At this time, the available number of doses and date of availability are unknown. CDC recommends that only the following groups receive inactivated influenza vaccine before October 24, 2005: **persons aged ≥ 65 years with or without comorbid conditions, residents of long term-care facilities, persons aged 2-64 years with comorbid conditions, children aged 6-23 months, pregnant women, healthcare personnel who provide direct patient care, household contacts and out-of-home caregivers of children aged < 6 months.** Starting October 24, 2005, influenza vaccine should be made available to all persons. A viable vaccine option for those healthy persons aged 5-49 years wishing to be vaccinated before October 24, is the nasal spray, live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV). In the event of an inactivated influenza vaccine shortage, CDC has provided a tiered list of priority groups. This influenza vaccine priority group list can be viewed at www.vdh.state.va.us/LHD/henrico/myweb/flu%20priority%20groups.htm. **Influenza Case Reporting** – Lab confirmed cases of influenza should be reported to the health department weekly on an Epi-1 form as number-of-cases only. Epi-1's should not be sent in for each patient. Please report the type of influenza if it is available, as well as the timeframe (ex: 10/24-10/28, month of November). The influenza reporting section can be found on the upper third on the right side of the Epi-1 form. If you can provide a tally of cases by zip code of residency, then we will be able to map the progression of influenza in Henrico and share the map with the community. **Special Thanks** – New Market Medical Center and Altius Family and Sports Medicine have agreed to participate in active sentinel influenza surveillance during the upcoming influenza season. Sentinel influenza surveillance will start October 2nd. If any other medical providers are interested in participating during the upcoming influenza season, please contact Seth Levine as soon as possible at Henrico County Health Department at (804) 501-5216. **Pertussis:** The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recently licensed two Tdap vaccines for adolescents in the United States. In May, BOOSTRIX®, manufactured by GlaxoSmithKline Biologicals, was licensed for use in adolescents 10 through 18 years of age. In June, ADACEL™, manufactured by Sanofi Pasteur, was licensed for persons 11 through 64 years of age. These are the first pertussis vaccines licensed for use in adolescents and adults and come as a direct response to the increasing incidence of pertussis in older children and adults probably as a result of waning immunity. In addition, ACIP recently recommended that adolescents 11 and 12 years of age be given Tdap in place of the tetanus-diphtheria (Td) booster currently given to adolescents. [The committee also recommended that Tdap be given to adolescents 13 through 18 who missed the 11 to 12 year dose of Td. Adolescents 11 to 18 years of age who have already been vaccinated with Td are encouraged to receive a dose of Tdap to further protect against pertussis]. ACIP has not yet issued a recommendation on pertussis vaccination of adults. This will likely be discussed during future ACIP meetings. **Disease Reporting Regulations:** Minor amendments to the Virginia Regulations for Disease Reporting and Control were recently proposed and comments may be submitted through November 4, 2005. These may be viewed at:
<http://legis.state.va.us/codecomm/register/vol21/iss26/WELCOME.HTM>

Emergency Preparedness Update: Personal/Family Preparedness: While recent media coverage of Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita has focused on the government's response, little attention has been paid to the need for individual and family preparedness in response to "All Hazards." Although hurricanes usually provide advance warning, many other disasters do not. One important aspect of personal preparedness is having an adequate supply of pharmaceuticals on-hand. Remind your patients to renew their prescriptions promptly and maintain an adequate supply. You can direct your patients to www.ready.gov for more information. **Emergency Medication Dispensing:** Henrico Health Department is pleased to announce that 27 private pharmacies in Henrico County have agreed to serve as emergency dispensing sites for prophylactic medications in the event of a bioterror attack or natural disease outbreak. This new partnership will greatly enhance the County's ability to respond to a public health emergency. Further information will be forthcoming as our plans take shape.

Prevention updates: Updates from the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) – During September 2005, the USPSTF released the following recommendation concerning screening for breast cancer: **The USPSTF recommends that women whose family history is associated with an increased risk for deleterious mutations in BRCA1 or BRCA2 genes be referred for genetic counseling and evaluation for BRCA testing.** B Recommendation. **The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) recommends against routine referral for genetic counseling or routine breast cancer susceptibility gene (BRCA) testing for women whose family history is not associated with an increased risk for deleterious mutations in breast cancer susceptibility gene 1 (BRCA1) or breast cancer susceptibility gene 2 (BRCA2).** The full report can be accessed at <http://www.ahrq.gov/clinic/uspstf05/brcagen/brcagenrev.pdf>.